

# American Renaissance

There is not a truth existing which I fear, or would wish unknown to the whole world.

— Thomas Jefferson

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## The War With Mexico

**The actual circumstances of the war were far different from today's conventional wisdom.**

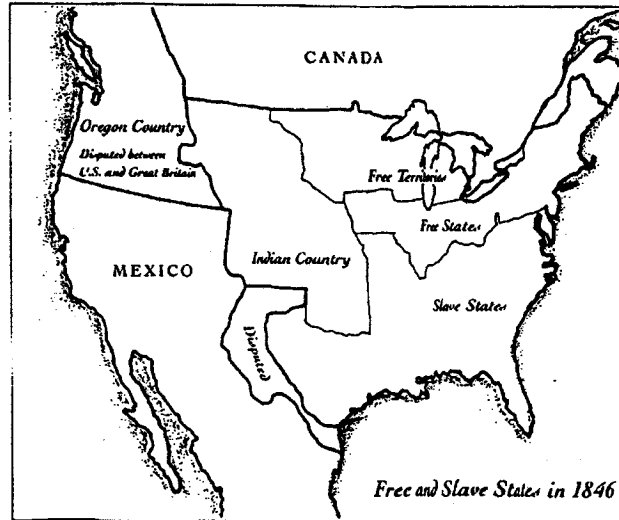
by Erik Peterson

April 25, 1996 will mark the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the Mexican War. Today, most Americans have been taught that it was an imperialistic war of aggression, and Mexicans cite the "illegal seizure" of their territories to justify the current colonization of the American Southwest. In fact, by contemporary and even by today's standards, the war was far from unjustified.

The conflict began with Texas. When the colony of New Spain broke free from its European namesake in 1821 and christened itself Mexico, it inherited vast lands north of the Rio Grande that had been only nominally under Spanish control. Texas was a remote wilderness, constantly terrorized by Comanches, with a Mexican population of only 3,500.

Mexico could have concentrated on subduing the Indians and settling its northern territories. Instead, almost from the first days of independence, the country was wracked by a series of political upheavals. The small, predominantly white, Spanish-speaking elite consumed all of its energies in fratricidal power struggles, while the Mestizo and Indian majority remained mired in poverty.

In order to legitimize its claim on Texas, Mexico needed to occupy it. Since it was unable to do this itself, the Mexican government enlisted the help of immigration agents or *empresarios* to recruit settlers from the United States. The *empresarios*, chief among them Steven F. Austin, acted as repre-



sentatives of the Mexican government. They were authorized to offer immigrants cheap land in return for accepting Mexican citizenship and converting to Roman Catholicism. The Americans appear to have made a good faith effort to fulfill the first requirement but often sidestepped the second.

The new settlers created a frontier version of the plantation-based, slave-owning society of the neighboring

**"Mexico wanted [war]; Mexico threatened it, Mexico issued orders to wage it."**

Southern states. By the early 1830s, however, Mexico began to fear that the *empresarios* had been too successful: American immigrants outnumbered Mexicans four to one, and seemed likely to identify with the land of their birth.

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna became President of Mexico in 1833, and in 1835 abrogated the con-

stitution and declared himself dictator. This act alone provoked rebellion in seven Mexican states, including Texas, but Texans had additional reasons for discontent. Determined to reverse the Americanization of the territory, Santa Anna had decreed an end to American immigration, abolished slavery, repealed the local political autonomy Texans had

enjoyed, and announced he would forcibly settle the land with Mexican convicts.

It is hard to imagine policies better calculated to rouse the ire of free-spirited Texans. In 1836 they overthrew local Mexican garrisons and declared independence. Santa Anna promptly invaded Texas with an army of 3,000 men, but after several engagements was decisively beaten by Sam Houston's men at the battle of San Jacinto. Santa Anna was captured, and in order to gain freedom agreed to recognize Texan independence, with the Rio Grande as its border. He later disavowed this treaty, and Mexico waged a nine-year guerrilla war against its former territory.

The United States recognized Texas as an independent republic in 1837, and recognition soon followed from France, Great Britain, Holland, and Belgium. Despite strong Texan sentiment to join the Union, the American government demurred; Mexico threatened war if Texas were

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## Letters from Readers

Sir—I have read with interest your continuing commentary on the impending demise of affirmative action, but am still waiting for you to point out that the Supreme Court justice who writes least stupidly about race is the only black, Clarence Thomas. He is the first justice since 1954 to write that separate may not be unequal:

“Mere de facto segregation (unaccompanied by discriminatory inequalities in educational resources) does not constitute a continuing harm after the end of de jure segregation. ‘Racial isolation’ itself is not a harm; only state-enforced segregation is. After all, if separation itself is a harm, and if integration therefore is the only way that blacks can receive a proper education, then there must be something inferior about blacks.”

In the same decision, Justice Thomas wrote, “there is no reason to think that black students cannot learn as well when surrounded by members of their own race as when they are in an integrated environment.” He has also shown sympathy with the view that if separate is inherently unequal, it was wrong of the 1954 court in *Brown v. Board of Education* to rely on sociological data that was supposed to prove that segregated schools were bad for black egos. If separate is *inherently* unequal and wrong, no data should be necessary to prove it so.

It is very useful to have a black man making these arguments, limited though they may be. Supreme Court justices are just as susceptible to racial intimidation as anyone else, and it is good for them to face a black who argues the “conservative” position.

Roger Carlton, Kansas City, Mo.

Sir—In your June issue you are mistaken to write that Jean Raspail was a “little-known author” when he wrote *The Camp of the Saints*. His 1960 novel, known in English as *Welcome, Honorable Visitors*, was translated into nine languages and in 1970—three years before publication of *The Camp of the Saints*—he was awarded the “Jean Walthes Prize” by the French Academy, for “the whole of his work.”

S.E. Parker, London, England

Sir—I thought Michael Masters’ two-part essay was, well, masterful. In a sane world, it would have appeared in *The Atlantic*, although if *The Atlantic* were willing to publish racist treatises they would probably not even need to be written. My one reservation about Mr. Masters is that he does not seem to have a vision of race and culture that goes beyond the material. I wonder what some of your more religious writers, like Father Tacelli or Rabbi Schiller, might add to (or subtract from) Mr. Masters’ view.

Name Withheld, Vancouver, Canada

Sir—You usually write as though the Hispanic conquest of the United States is limited to the Southwest. Your readers may be surprised to know that the third most-listened-to radio station in the New York City area broadcasts in Spanish. Whereas there used to be only one or two Spanish radio stations they now number in the double digits. Moreover, on our cable system, there are *three* Spanish television networks with a total of about 65 stations. The flags of Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican

Republic, etc. fly from car antennae and rear view mirrors. The commonwealth status of Puerto Rico only fuels the Hispanic invasion.

Ken Reynolds, Bronx, N.Y.

Sir—An article in the July 9th *San Francisco Chronicle* reports, as if it were big news, the well-known fact that men are more likely than women to be both geniuses and mental retards. More specifically, seven of eight people in the highest one percent of IQ scores are men, and the same disproportions are found at the low end of the curve. What was the headline chosen for the article? “More Men Are Dumber Than Was Believed.” Of course, the article said nothing about blacks, who probably make up a large proportion of those who are “dumber than was believed.”

William Pepperell, Hayward, Calif.

Sir—In the August issue, you noted a correction that had appeared in the *Sacramento Bee*. Apparently, someone had written about putting the state budget “back in the African-American” rather than “back in the black,” and the paper published a correction. I would love to know if this was an idiotic but well-meaning error, or whether some rogue typesetter decided to have a joke on the paper. I recall years ago that a typesetter at, I believe, the *Boston Globe* gave the headline “More Mush From the Wimp” to a story about a speech by President Jimmy Carter. On the other hand, during Nelson Mandela’s tour of the United States, one gushing young reporter referred to him as an “African-American,” so there is certainly ample stupidity in the press corps.

M. Cortineaux, Lake Charles, Lou.

Sir—In the August issue you seem surprised that American blacks do not howl about present-day slavery in Africa the way they howled about white rule in South Africa. For them to do so would require that they *care* about other blacks. I suspect they care only about extracting advantages from guilt-ridden whites.

Stanley Dean, Boise, Ida.

## American Renaissance

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annexed, and the United States was unwilling to upset the delicate balance between slave and free states.

### Western Destiny

The presidential election of 1844 brought into office a firm believer in what soon became known as "manifest destiny." James K. Polk was determined to complete the annexation of Texas, buy California from the Mexicans, and bluff the British into ceding the better part of Oregon. The Texans were impatient for a settlement, and Polk's predecessor, John Tyler, had welcomed the Lone Star State into the Union three days before he left office. If the United States had continued to hesitate because of Mexican sentiments, Texas might have remained independent or even accepted protectorate status from Britain or France.

As for California, Mexico's position was so weak it was bound to be supplanted soon, if not by the U.S. then by Britain, Russia, or perhaps even the Mormons. Polk had reason to believe that Mexico would be willing to sell. In the meantime, if Oregon joined the Union the careful balance of free and slave states could be maintained.

When Texas joined the United States in March, 1845, Mexico immediately broke off diplomatic relations and threatened war. Polk sent General Zachary Taylor with 2,000 men to protect the new state from Mexican depredation while annexation was accomplished. Nevertheless,

Polk had every reason to seek a diplomatic solution with Mexico, partly because he was afraid war might break out with Britain over the Oregon question. He decided to send a special emissary, John Slidell, to Mexico with instructions to resolve all outstanding issues.

On the question that had caused the rupture — annexation of Texas — Slidell was not to compromise. Mexico had been unable to reconquer her wayward territory, whose independence had been recognized by the major powers. By refusing to accept the loss of Texas and by persisting in border skirmishes, Mexico had perpetuated a crisis on the American border that could have led to European intervention. Texas was now part of the United States.



Several other matters were open to negotiation. One was the settlement of \$3.25 million in claims by Americans on the Mexican government. Mexico had recognized these claims under international arbitration, but had later refused to pay. Another issue was final determination of the Texas-Mexico border. As a Mexican territory, the Texas border had been at the Nueces River, but after their revolution the Texans claimed the Rio Grande as the border — without, however, establishing full authority in the disputed territory. Slidell was authorized to release Mexico from the \$3.25 million obligation in return for

recognition of the Rio Grande border. This was a reasonable offer, especially since Mexico had already, in effect, declared war, and unpaid international obligations were then considered grounds for belligerency. By accepting this offer, Mexico could easily have avoided war.

Besides these immediate questions, Slidell was to offer \$15 million but, if necessary, propose considerably more for the Mexican lands stretching from Texas to the Pacific. If the entire tract was not for sale, he was to offer \$5 million for New Mexico.

The Mexican government, threatened by a militant opposition and wracked by internal dissension, refused even to receive Slidell. This

### Mexico had a standing army of 27,000 men versus an American army of only 7,200.

was a fatal mistake. The rebuff left Polk with no means to negotiate a peaceful settlement. He ordered Zachary Taylor into the disputed region between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande, but he warned Taylor not to seek engagement with any Mexican troops he might encounter. In the meantime, he made preparations to ask Congress to declare war, but Mexico forced the issue.

On April 23, 1846, sixteen hundred Mexican troops crossed the Rio Grande. Two days later they ambushed a U.S. Army patrol, inflicting sixteen casualties and taking prisoners. Mexico "shed American blood upon American soil," and the war began.

The Mexicans, of course, saw the war as a just effort to retake what was rightfully theirs. Why, though, would they make war on the United States when they had been unable to subdue a breakaway territory? Astonishingly enough, Mexico fully expected to win. It had a standing army of 27,000 men versus an American army of only 7,200. French advisors to the Mexican army had an exaggerated estimate of its fighting prowess, which the Mexicans gladly believed. The generals intended not only to take back Texas but to annex parts of the United States. Indeed, the Mexican dictator of the moment, General



Mariano Paredes, boasted that he would not negotiate *until the Mexican flag flew over the capitol dome in Washington*. The Mexicans were also counting on diplomatic and even military support from Britain, but the Oregon issue was resolved just before they attacked.

In his two-volume work, *The War With Mexico*, Pulitzer prize-winning historian Justin H. Smith described the war fever among the generals: "Mexico wanted [war]; Mexico threatened it, Mexico issued orders to wage it." By no stretch of the imagination was Mexico thrust into an unwanted war by Yankee aggressors.

### American Arms

The military history of the Mexican War makes interesting reading and is a credit to the tradition of American arms. Throughout the two-year campaign, small but superbly led and highly motivated American units consistently outfought the Mexicans. The

### By accepting payment, Mexico ratified the transfer of payment.

Mexican army, impressive enough in numbers and parade-ground panache, was utterly unable to fight a determined adversary.

The American war effort was not all glorious. Although the Regular Army behaved with proper discipline, some of the volunteer militia units conducted themselves so badly they created guerrilla resistance among previously noncombatant Mexican civilians. Also, the war was all-too-effective training for America's fratricidal tragedy just 13 years later. Among the junior officers sent to Mexico, 200 would go on to be generals in the Union and Confederate armies.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war in 1848 on terms advantageous to the United States. Mexico agreed to cede California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and the western parts of Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico—in all, 525,000 square miles of land that contained virtually no Mexicans.

All but overlooked today is the fact that the United States forgave the

\$3.25 million debt, and paid Mexico \$15 million for the ceded territories. According to the rules of 19th century warfare, after routing Mexico's armies and occupying its capital, the United States could have seized territory under whatever terms it liked. To have paid what it considered a reasonable amount *before* fighting an expensive war—estimated to have cost \$100 million—was a unanimous gesture.

The Mexican position today is that the United States stole Mexican ter-

ritory. However, Mexico could have refused the money or promptly returned it. By accepting payment it ratified the transfer. Furthermore, only five years later, Mexico agreed to sell an additional parcel of land to the United States, which was to be used for the southern route of the transcontinental railway. The Gadsden Treaty of 1853 settled a number of disputes about the post-1848 U.S.-Mexico border and secured 19 million additional acres of territory for the United States. In return, the United States paid

## What They Are Saying Now

**V**oz Fronteriza is one of several irredentist, anti-white publications supported by California taxpayers. On its masthead, it calls itself "a quarterly Chicano Mexicano student publication founded in 1975 . . . recognized as an official campus print media [sic] by the Associated Student Media Board of U.C. San Diego." This is the lead of a typical article:

"In August of 1996, a large gathering of the most racist/fascist European settlers will take place in San Diego, Ca. The objective of this gathering is to consolidate and develop a program which will further erode the democratic rights of the majority of the people in occupied America (United States) and hold steady the present U.S. socio-political policy leading to the genocide and deportation of the Mexicano, African, and other oppressed people."

The anticipated "gathering" is the Republican National Convention. The article goes on to explain that "the right-wing plans of GOP pigs such as [Pete] Wilson, Gingrich, Helms, Buchannon [sic], etc. are genocidal, pure and simple."

Articles routinely refer either to "the 'so-called' border between Aztlan and Mexico" or use the Spanish expression *la Frontera*

*Falsa*. They call Mexicans *la raza*, "the race," or our *gente*, "our people." The Mex-American nation of Aztlan is to be won through "armed struggle."

The centerfold of each issue is to something called "Definitions and Descriptions of Oppression," a kind of catechism of anti-white nationalism, which includes definitions like this:

"Race is an arbitrary sociobiological category created by

Europeans (white men) in the 15th century and used to assign human worth and social status with themselves as the model of humanity, with the purpose of establishing white skin access to sources of power."

Likewise, "A racist is one who is *both privileged and socialized* on the basis of race by a white supremacist (racist) system. The term applies to all white people (i.e., people of European descent) living in the United States . . . . Naturally, "people of color cannot be racists."

On the back page is a *Poesia* section, in which young Chicanos vent righteous rage in blank verse. A recent issue offered two works, one called "Stupid American" and the other, "What the hell are you looking at, old white man?" both every bit as bad as they sound.



Mexico \$10 million. There was no threat of war or coercion. This freely negotiated settlement of the new border and additional transfer of land were further ratification by Mexico of the consequences of war with the United States.

In conclusion, the United States had ample to reason to pursue, in 1846, the course that it did. As a practical matter, the real issue decided by the war was whether Britain, France, Russia, Mexico or the United States would acquire the vast territories of the American Southwest. President

Polk resolved the question in favor of the United States in a refreshingly straightforward nineteenth century manner. •

*Eric Peterson lives in Oregon and writes about American history.*

## A Government of Wolves

William J. Quirk & R. Randall Bridwell, *Judicial Dictatorship*, Transaction Publishers, 1995, 143 pp., \$29.95.

### The tyrannical rule of the U.S. Supreme Court.

reviewed by Thomas Jackson

**T**he federal government is unquestionably in lower repute than at any time since General Beauregard gave the order to open fire on Fort Sumter. *Judicial Dictatorship* explains why, and does it so thoroughly it will shame even confirmed enemies of federal power into thinking they have been too indulgent with Washington. William Quirk and Randall Bridwell place the blame for increasing federal tyrannies squarely on the U.S. Supreme Court—though at the same time they fault American citizens for submitting to fetters that a brave people could throw off at any time.

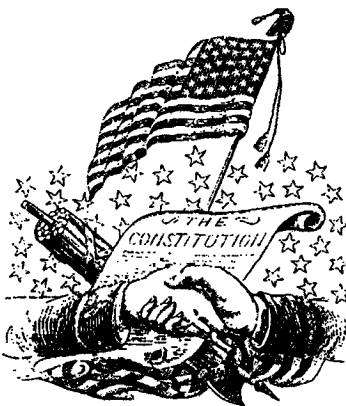
The heart of the authors' argument is that by arrogating to itself the right to interpret the Constitution, the Supreme Court has seized decision-making power over every important national question. They point out that this is a form of minority rule that is deeply inimical not only to the original notions of the founders but to the idea of democracy itself.

#### Judicial Review

A court's inquiry into the constitutionality of a law is called judicial review. As the authors explain, it "assumes that the president and Congress, the branches responsible to the people, either cannot understand or will not respect the Constitution and the Supreme Court does understand it and will respect it." Federal judges *always* know best.

The Constitution itself is silent on who is to be its final arbiter. Thomas

Jefferson foresaw that any branch of government that had this right exclusively would soon rule the others: "Whoever hath an absolute authority to interpret any written or spoken laws, it is He who is truly the Law-



Giver to all intents and purposes, and not the person who first wrote or spoke them." Jefferson has been proven right. The Supreme Court routinely invalidates laws passed by elected assemblies and interprets laws in ways never intended by law-makers.

Jefferson thought that each branch should interpret the Constitution for itself. Congress would legislate in accordance with its interpretation but the President could refuse to carry out any law that violated his interpretation. The Supreme Court could also express its views on constitutionality. Jefferson realized that this would cause friction and could hobble government, but that was exactly what he wanted. In his view, every new law eroded the freedom of the people, so it was just as well that legislation should require approval by all three branches of government rather than just one. Of the three, the judiciary was *least* qualified to be the sole inter-

preter of the Constitution because it was not answerable to the people.

Equal, contending branches of government were the essence of "checks and balances," but today there is nothing short of the very cumbersome process of constitutional amendment to check or balance the power of the judiciary. The men who fought England to escape the burdens of monarchy would be astonished to find their descendants now ruled by modern-day equivalents of the Judges of Israel.

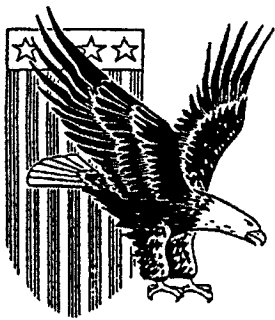
The judicial system is supposed to mete out justice to individuals. Its decisions are supposed to affect only the parties to a case. However, by assuming the right to strike down laws and interpret those it does not strike down, the federal judiciary now passes new laws and amends the Constitution at will. As the authors put it, "the opinions of the Supreme Court *are* the government of the United States."

#### Protecting the Minority

Courts that flout majority views claim that their role is to protect the minority. However, the theory that the majority's rapaciousness must always be checked by wise guardians is openly anti-democratic. If the majority cannot be trusted to deal fairly with the minority, why should it be trusted with anything at all? Moreover, majority rapaciousness has always been more theoretical than real. In Britain, for example, final authority rests with whatever majority Parliament can muster, but where is the tyranny a Supreme Court should suppress?

In democracies there are rarely permanent majorities. Sooner or later

everyone finds himself on the wrong side of a vote. Democracy therefore has built-in restraints on the ruthlessness of winners, since they may well be losers when the next question comes up for a vote. Even if they have the power to do so, courts should not lightly set aside a decision that has made its way through a legislature. As Learned Hand put it, "a law which can get itself enacted is almost sure to have behind it a support which is not wholly unreasonable."



Some of the most obvious judicial tyrannies have had to do with race—courts force Americans to live with, employ, and go to school with people not of their choosing. But as the authors point out, federal judges have struck down majority decisions about everything from abortion and treatment of criminals, to standards for obscenity and education.

In one case, a judge wrote a 169-page opinion that completely overhauled the South Carolina prison system—and he did it singlehandedly. In North Carolina, another judge specified exactly what recreations should be made available to prisoners, including "horseshoes, croquet, badminton [and] paddleball." He even required annual state tournaments in chess, checkers and backgammon for inmates. One federal judge saw fit to specify the temperature of the hot water in a mental institution, and in another famous case, a Missouri judge ordered an increase in property taxes to pay for a gold-plated school system that was supposed to tempt whites back into public schools.

Questions like this come before the courts because some busybody decides that he does not like the way the elected majority has arranged things. The busybody does not have to do the difficult work of persuading the majority to change its mind. He need only change the minds of a few judges. Once judges have worked their will on something, it is lifted completely out of the normal political process and is beyond the reach of anything short of a reversal on appeal or a Constitutional amendment. A federal judge's decision to thwart Proposition 187 in California—which would deny wel-

fare and social benefits to illegal aliens—is just another example of the high-handed way judges flout the will of the people.

Sadly, even those who cannot point to any other legitimate suppression of majorities by courts usually defend the decisions that overturned racial segregation. Blacks, we are told, are the one worthy example of a minority legally tyrannized by a democratic majority. Of

course, it is now clear not only that the desegregation decisions were catastrophes, but that they paved the way for dozens of other fanciful rulings on sex, disability, citizenship, legal status, and sexual orientation. A terrible error about race spawned other terrible errors.

#### Winner-take-all

Messrs. Quirk and Bridwell point out that judicial tyranny makes policy-making a ruthless game of winner-take-all. Because a judge does not have to compromise like a legislator seeking a majority, because he need please no one but himself (or, eventually, five Supreme Court justices), a judge can enact laws that virtually no one wants. As the authors explain, no legislature in the country would have passed an equivalent of the Miranda law, which requires police to tell crooks they need not confess. No legislature would have approved of forced busing. Probably not a single state legislature would have granted a blanket right to an abortion, nor would Congress have permitted practicing homosexuals in the military. The authors explain that by assuming dictatorial power, judges destroy democracy: "Our basic reliance on a system for throwing our representatives out does not work if the ones we can throw out do not have the real power," they write.

Some Supreme Court justices openly revel in the awesome power they were never intended to have. William Brennan was not exaggerating when he once told his law clerks, "With five votes around here you can do anything." It was also Justice Brennan who justified racial preferences by

saying that "in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently." Justice Brennan has even announced his intention of undermining the death penalty in any way that he can, even though execution is clearly anticipated in the 5th amendment's reference to "capital" crimes, and is supported by the vast majority of Americans.

How did the majority lose its power? The authors explain that by the 19th century judicial review already had tyrannical potential, but that judges were much more respectful of majorities. Also, in what the authors call "an unholy alliance," the other branches of the federal government accepted the loss of certain powers to the courts because the courts were vastly increasing the powers of *all* the branches. Congress could tolerate judicial review if the Supreme Court obligingly ignored the Tenth Amendment and ruled that every act of every American was actually interstate commerce.

Of course, it is the states that have been most mercilessly bound and gagged, as Jefferson and others feared they would be. In the 1830s, Sen. Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri was just one of many who warned that if the courts could interpret the Constitution, they would exert "despotic power" that would lead inexorably to "the annihilation of the States."

The 14th amendment, passed over a prostrate former Confederacy, officially extended federal power over the states for the first time, but annihilation came later. As late as 1873, in the famous *Slaughter-House Cases*, the court refused to declare a state law

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### Justice William Brennan: "With five votes around here you can do anything."

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unconstitutional, since it did not think it had the power to act as censor of every state act. By 1937, a bolder court began to interfere directly with local legislation, and the states began a descent into irrelevance that was only briefly checked by Southern resistance to forced integration.

It is the disappearance of any but the national majority that has emasculated the states, just as it has all other



smaller jurisdictions. As originally planned, the United States was to be composed of concentric majorities; townships, counties, and states made the decisions that mattered most to most people, and the federal government had little day-to-day business. However, in a democracy, defining the quorum often defines the results. Now that the quorum is national rather than local, people who know nothing about trees tell the people of Oregon how to manage forests, just as people who knew nothing about blacks told Southerners how to manage race relations. *Nothing* is beyond the reach of federal judges.

### Solutions

How can judicial power be curbed? There have been many proposals. Jefferson thought states had the power to ignore federal laws their legislatures found unconstitutional. The federal government could then repeal the law or call a constitutional convention.

Others have suggested that Congress should use the impeachment power much more freely, not just to throw out criminal judges but to remove those who overstep their bounds. Theodore Roosevelt, who despised judicial review, thought that every time the Supreme Court struck down a law or discovered a new "right" the question should be put on

the next national ballot for the people to decide. Others have proposed that Congress—or a state—should be able to reestablish any "unconstitutional" law if it can muster a three-fourths majority.

Today, conservatives long for "strict constructionist" judges, who can read the Constitution as a layman would, but Messrs. Quirk and Bridwell point out that the political thinking of individual judges is a small problem compared to the unintended power judges now have, a power "so great that it might crush an angel."



Ultimately, though, tinkering with judicial review will not help a people that has permitted itself to be ruled by the unanswerable will of a few old men and women. In 1944, Learned Hand wrote that "liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it."

Jefferson wrote that a government based on force and not on consent is

"a government of wolves over sheep." By routinely overthrowing the traditions of the majority, by ignoring its will and thwarting the results of its deliberations, the judiciary has shown that it does not care about the consent of the governed. But far more amazing than the power lust of our black-robed wolves is how little force it takes to drive the sheep.

Would federal troops invade a state that decided not to enforce a ban on high-capacity handgun magazines, or that told state prisoners they would have to get through the day without croquet? Jefferson wrote that a people's chains are always self-imposed.

The authors of this book feel strongly about these questions, and their passions sometimes show through their otherwise careful prose. One can almost imagine them leading a corrective operation against the Supreme Court. And what about Thomas Jefferson who, in his first inaugural address, spoke of "a wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned"? It is hard to believe that the old revolutionary would *not* lead a rebellion if he were alive today. ●

## My Father, the Civil Rights Activist

by Russell Eisenman

**T**he article in the May issue of *American Renaissance* about the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march reminds me of some of my father's experiences as a civil rights advocate. My father, Abram Eisenman, worked during the 1950s and 1960s for the rights of black people in our home town of Savannah, Georgia. He was particularly effective in getting better housing for blacks.

My father ran several times for city council as a civil rights advocate. On one occasion, his overwhelming support among black citizens seemed to

give him a good chance of winning. His opponent was a segregationist, whose supporters seemed cocky and who did not make a good effort to get out the vote. However, an amazing thing happened.

As my father told me after the election, "Hosea Williams [the famous civil rights leader and associate of Martin Luther King] came to me and demanded \$300 if they were going to support me. I felt it was wrong to be extorted this way and I turned him down. He then got local blacks and some outside blacks to come in and campaign for my opponent, the ardent segregationist. So, I lost the election."

My father died in 1982, and I learned only later about some of the

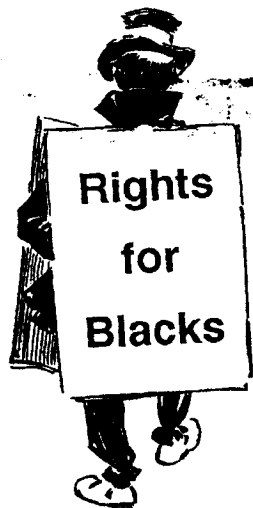
other problems he had with black leaders. Recently my mother told me that although blacks were grateful for his help and invited him to their social and political functions, they also tried to frighten him into giving them money. They constantly demanded large contributions from him and from the black-oriented radio station for which he worked.

The radio station refused to pay, and my father was unable to give very much. He did not make a great deal of money and spent his savings publishing a newspaper to present his views and advance the cause of blacks. My father had been a popular disk jockey on the radio station, but some blacks complained that a white person

should not be on the air for a black station, and he was removed from his job. He then made a living selling ads for the station.

When my father would not give them money, black leaders threatened violence. Some made death threats. The very group he was trying to help was making his life miserable. It was one thing to get death threats from the Ku Klux Klan, who once burned a cross on our lawn, but to be threatened by blacks might seem to be the last straw. Not for my father. He continued his civil rights work. The only real change in his life, besides elevated blood pressure, was to get an unlisted telephone number—not to protect himself from the Klan but from blacks. The worst of the threats came during the 1960s, when my brother and I were away at college, but our parents kept this from us.

Part of the problem was that blacks were starting to emphasize black power, and were less accepting of



whites who helped them. Also, according to the black power movement, blacks were god-like and whites were devils. Thus, someone like my father, who was clearly on their side, would be confusing. He did not fit their stereotype of the evil white man, but they sometimes treated him the way

they had decided all whites should be treated.

It is easy to imagine the loneliness of a white man, working in the South during the 1950s and 1960s for the rights of blacks. Who would have thought that the people for whom he sacrificed so much would treat him so heartlessly? My father certainly had the courage of his convictions, and I admire his dedication to a cause. However, when I think of him I cannot help but think of Amy Biehl, the young Stanford graduate who went to South Africa on a Fulbright scholarship to "fight oppression." In August, 1993, as she drove through a black Cape Town neighborhood, she was dragged from her car by thugs who killed her because she was white. ●

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## O Tempora, O Mores!

### An Important Victory

The current assault on racial preferences is the first time in decades that whites have acted in their own racial interests. Ever since the 1950s, whites have lost every battle over race. Although it should never have been necessary to fight against systematic discrimination against the majority, whites are winning victories that no one would have predicted only two or three years ago.

On July 20th, the Board of Regents, which is the governing body of all California state universities, voted to forbid race and sex preferences in admissions, hiring, and contracting. California has the largest state university system in the country, and the decision is likely to be copied by other states. This important vote was taken under the leadership of California governor, Pete Wilson, who has made the elimination of racial preferences a central theme in his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

The chancellors of all nine of the university's campuses have said they want to stick with the old system of

discrimination. Jesse Jackson, who is not a resident of California but who led protests anyway, called the vote "a blatant act of racism." "I do not wish to be colorblind," he said, adding that society should be "race-caring" rather than "race-neutral." Leaders of non-white student groups have promised protests and campus disruption when they return to school in the fall.

The White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, promptly announced that federal funds might be withheld from California—he thinks eliminating discrimination against whites is a punishable offense—but the Department of Education admitted unhappily that this could not be done.

Presumably, this vote renders moot a creative consumer-fraud suit that a lawyer filed recently against the University of California. Allan Favish pointed out that U.C. law and medical school applications were lying to applicants when they claimed that the schools did not discriminate on the basis of sex or race. He did not propose that race and sex preferences be eliminated; only that the schools correct their false advertising by in-

cluding in their applications tables of race, grades, and test scores of people previously admitted.

Back in Washington, DC, the very day before the vote by the University of California regents, President Bill Clinton gave a long-awaited speech on affirmative action, which he pronounced "good for America." The speech was filled with the usual blather:

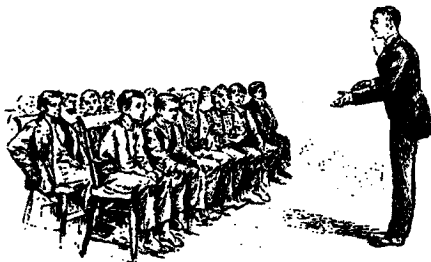
"The purpose of affirmative action is to give our nation a way to finally address the systemic exclusion of individuals of talent, on the basis of their gender or race, from opportunities to develop, perform, achieve and contribute. Affirmative action is an effort to develop a systematic approach to open the doors of education, employment, and business development opportunities to qualified individuals who happen to be members of groups that have experienced longstanding and persistent discrimination."

### Lessons in Hypocrisy

Public school teachers constantly tell us that their schools are vital social



institutions that we must always improve with more money. However, in many towns public school teachers are far more likely than other people to send their own children to private schools. In Baltimore, 43.6 percent of the teachers send their children to private schools, as opposed to 18.1



percent of the city as a whole. In Boston, the percentages are 48.9 and 29.9; in Cleveland, 52.8 and 25.2; in Grand Rapids, 55 and 27.3; in Toledo, 49.4 and 26.7. In the nation as a whole, black and Hispanic public school teachers are slightly more likely than white teachers to send their children to private schools.

In other news, it has been reported that the most rigidly segregated cities in the United States—Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia—are all in the North, the region that so loves to instruct the South on how to treat blacks.

## Rising Tide

In 1990, New York City was 43 percent white, down from 63 percent in 1970. At this rate, it will be only 35 percent white by the year 2000. During the 1990s, Hispanics will have gone from 24 to 29 percent, Asians from seven percent to ten percent, and blacks from 25 percent to 26 percent. The 30-year decline for whites will have been greatest in the Bronx, where they were 50 percent of the population in 1970 but will be only 14 percent in 2000. Hispanics will have gone from 28 percent to 52 percent and will be the majority.

In one of his columns in the *New York Post*, former mayor Ed Koch reports on the struggle he had with the New York police department to get it to release information about the races of crime perpetrators and victims. He finally learned that in 1993, blacks, who are 25 percent of the city's population, accounted for 56 percent

of all arrests for murder, 62 percent for rape, and 62 percent for robbery. Blacks and Hispanics together, who make up about half the city's population, accounted for 90 percent of all arrests for murder, rape, and robbery. Mr. Koch does not make this point, but this means that if the city were all white, arrests for these crimes would decline by 80 percent. Mr. Koch also notes that whereas whites killed almost no non-whites, 61 percent of white murder victims were killed by non-whites.

## Cambodian Doughnuts

Cambodians now own about 80 percent of the doughnut shops in California, and have nearly driven Winchell's Donut Houses—which used to dominate the market—out of the state. "Where we had one Winchell's shop, they now have three or four Cambodian shops," explains a Winchell's spokesman; "They were very happy with a much lesser volume." In Los Angeles, there is one doughnut shop for every 7,500 residents, as opposed to one for every 30,000, which is the standard in the rest of the country.

## Integration, Disintegration

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a Washington organization that preserves historic neighborhoods. One of the areas it is trying to maintain is the Farish Street District in Jackson, Mississippi, about which it says this:

"After the Civil War, Farish Street became the heart of a thriving, self-sufficient African American community. The end of segregation signaled the decline of independent neighborhoods like Farish Street and today the area suffers the neglect common to many inner-city communities."

## Unemployer of Last Resort

Blacks are more than three times as likely as whites to be dismissed from federal employment. Hispanics and Asians are dismissed at essentially the same rate as whites. This news has been widely reported and has prompted the expected calls for investigation into government "racism." It

has been rarely pointed out that the divergence in firing rates is strictly in the "misconduct" category, which includes embezzlement, insubordination, and violence. When federal workers are fired merely for poor job performance—apparently this sometimes happens—blacks are no more likely to be dismissed than whites.

## All-American Boy

Tyson Beckford is 24 years old and shaves his head. He is also the first black model to sign an exclusive contract with Ralph Lauren to model the company's clothing and accessories. "Tyson has an all-American look with a dramatic edge," explains Mr. Lauren.

## Politics in Paradise

On August 4th, the self-styled head of state of the "Nation of Hawaii" was arrested on federal charges of harboring a felon. Dennis Kanahale, who



claims that both the federal and state governments are illegal and have no jurisdiction over native Hawaiians, is the leader of a movement to take back Hawaii from United States jurisdiction. Mr. Kanahale was accused of sheltering, and preventing the

arrest of a man who, as a member of something called the Royal Kingdom of Hawaii, was sentenced to 6 1/2 years on jail for filing false tax statements. The head of state and his followers ignore traffic summonses and often drive cars with home-made license plates that say "Hawaiian Sovereign." They also like to send notices to state and federal officials, accusing them of "crimes against humanity" and promising "final judgment."

Meanwhile, a U.S. government evaluation team has found that corruption and white collar crime are rampant in American Samoa, and have recommended that the authority of federal courts be extended to the territory. At present Samoa is the only American territory over which federal courts do not have jurisdiction. The

territory does, however, have a congressional delegate, Eni Faleomavaega. He strongly opposes federal jurisdiction which, he says, will interfere with local customs. Each year, Washington hands over about \$100 million to the territory, and one local custom appears to be the diversion of millions of these dollars into private pockets.

## Flocking to Europe

British nationalists who oppose further non-white immigration to Europe have found a surprising new ally: sheep. Britons are sentimental about animals, and there is growing concern



about the hundreds of thousands of British sheep that are exported to France to have their throats slit by Muslims. France's 5,000,000 Muslims have been carrying out so much ritual slaughter in apartments, houses, and on street corners that French authorities have set aside public lands as killing fields, especially during Islamic festivals. On the holiest days, as many as 100 British sheep an hour may be bled to death. For many Britons, this gruesome practice has come to be seen as an unmistakable sign that Arab immigrants are hopelessly alien and should have no place in Europe.

## Making the Grade

Since 1984, Florida has required college students to pass something called the College Level Academic Skills Test in order to get a junior college degree or to become a junior at a four-year college. Sixty-four percent of whites pass the test on the first try but only 40 percent of Hispanics and 28 percent of blacks do, so the test has the usual critics. The Florida state legislature has now devised a complicated set of grading and testing criteria that will let many students bypass the test. Officials at the Florida Department of Education say

that the examination is designed to test 10th-grade abilities.

## Obvious Solution

The state of Georgia has decided to deport criminal aliens rather than keep them on as guests of the state. By kicking out hundreds of foreign crooks, the state will either save \$6 million a year or make the jail space available to American crooks.

## Anticipating Amy Biehl

A new book called *Thy Will Be Done* blames Nelson Rockefeller for exploiting the third world and explains how Mr. Rockefeller's son, Michael, was killed and eaten by third worlders when he went off to save them from his father. In 1961, while Nelson Rockefeller was governor of New York, Michael was in New Guinea sheltering natives from the ravages of Western materialism. During an expedition to collect tribal art, he had a boating accident and was forced ashore. As he emerged from the water, one of the locals speared him in the chest. To quote from the book: "He was still alive when taken up the river, killed with an ax, and in the religious manner of cannibals seeking the strength of their victims, cooked with sago palm and eaten."

## Battle is Drawn

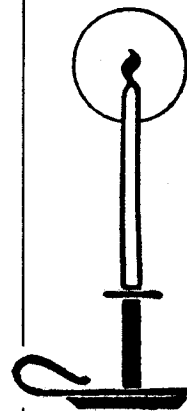
The New York State Senate has passed a bill that would close state universities to illegal aliens. An estimated 4,400 illegals cost the state about \$35 million a year. The bill must still pass the state's lower house, where one assemblyman predicted that it had "no chance." "Where was this taken from—Nazi Germany?" asks Assemblyman Edward Sullivan, who is chairman of the Higher Education Committee.

## Cracking Down on Police Racism

In 1986, Congress passed laws setting long minimum sentences for crack cocaine users. Liberal judges and lawyers have noticed that 96 percent of the people convicted under these laws are either black or Hispanic and

have concluded that this can only reflect police racism. In July, a federal appeals court actually *overturned* the crack-dealing conviction of a black gang member, arguing that federal prosecutors had not proven that racial patterns in convictions were *not* the result of racial bias. No one doubts that Nolan Reese, a member of the Crips street gang in San Diego, was a crack dealer but his 14-year prison sentence has now been struck down and he is a free man. Prosecutors have argued, vainly, that they arrest non-whites under the crack laws because non-whites break them.

## A Thousand Points of Light



These days, good sense on forbidden subjects can crop up nearly anywhere. Donald Vroon is editor of *American Record Guide*, which is devoted to classical music. In the May-June issue, in an excellent article on American cultural decline entitled "Cultural Suicide," he writes:

"We have been taught to label certain ideas as passé and old-fashioned, but on what logical basis have we rejected them? They have never been proved wrong; instead, our own messy time proves all the old fogies right. In the 1950s we were shocked when the old fogies said that the integration of a race that was culturally advanced with one that was backward could only hurt the overall cultural level of our society. It is very clear now that they were right . . ."

Meanwhile, the American correspondent for the Australian paper, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, has written a series of articles about taboos in the United States. One is a grimly factual piece called "The Race War of Black Against White," in which he writes that "for the past 30 years a large segment of black America has waged a war of violent retribution against white America." Correspondent Paul Sheehan points out that the average black is about 50 times more likely to commit violent crime against a white than vice versa, and that in the

past 30 years blacks have killed over 40,000 whites—more than the number of soldiers who died in the Korean War. “Black Americans have committed at least 170 million crimes against white Americans in the past 30 years,” he concludes; “It is the great, defining disaster of American life and American ideals since World War II.”

The *Irish Times*, like most other newspapers, noticed that many South African blacks cheered for the all-white South African rugby team as it went on to win the world championship. Unlike most other papers, it also noted that the country is so wracked with crime and racial divisions that it is tottering on the brink of collapse. Its conclusion: “By the time of the next world cup, South Africa will not be recognisable; this is the last hurrah for European South Africa with its rugby and its homes and gardens.”

## It Must Have Been the License Plates

On July 13th, two blacks were driving along Interstate 285 near Atlanta in a stolen jeep. Two accomplices were driving in another car. The accomplices pulled ahead of a motor home and slowed down, forcing the motor home to slow. The jeep pulled up alongside the motor home and a passenger blasted away at the white driver and his son, sending both to the hospital. The perpetrators were caught and the attack has been big news in Atlanta, but police have not determined a motive for the shootings. Nor has the driver, James Hess. “I don’t have any enemies,” he said, “unless they just don’t like people with Florida tags, I don’t know why [they did it].”

## Not Athens After All

The Carter Center, founded by former President, Jimmy Carter, has been forced to conclude that the June elections in Haiti were essentially a sham. Ordinarily Mr. Carter and his center are squarely behind President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and everything he does, but even they could not stomach the government’s behavior (see previous month’s “O Tempora”). Mr. Carter was no doubt grieved when some of Mr. Aristide’s supporters said

that the center’s attempts to ensure fair elections were intolerable interference.

Robert Pastor of the Carter Center does not recommend rerunning the entire election; only most of it. He notes that many opposition parties were so disgusted by government high-handedness that they will boycott runoff elections to be held later this year, and warns President Clinton that if he endorses the runoffs as planned, the United States will have aligned itself squarely with a fraudulent government.

## The Untouchable

America’s most famous drunk driver, Rodney King, has racked up his *fifth* arrest since that famous 1991 encounter with the Los Angeles Police Department. The first collar was just two months after the videotaped beating, when he was feeling chipper enough to solicit a transvestite prostitute and tried to run over two vice squad men who stopped the fun. Since then, he has been caught for drunk driving twice, once after crashing into a wall. He has also been arrested twice for assaulting his wife, most recently by driving off before she was completely out of the car. “She did a cartwheel,” explained a police spokesman.

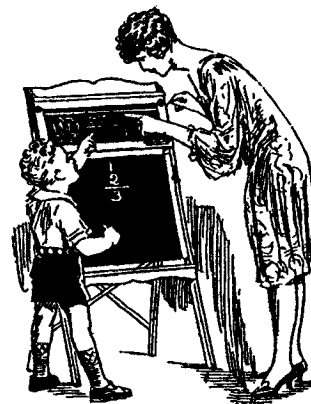
The officers who subdued him in 1991 are still behind bars, but Mr. King has yet to serve a day in prison. Any other American would long ago have lost his license and been locked up. As the *New York Post* pointed out in a May 27 editorial, “Rodney King is going to get into a car and kill some innocent person one of these days,” and it will be entirely due to the cowardice of whites.

## Let the Employer Beware

There are five “historically black” universities in North Carolina, and all have problems getting students to graduate. They have decided that it is discouraging for them to have failing grades on their transcripts, so the schools have made it as easy as possible to avoid them; students can retake a course as often as they like, and if they pass it only the passing grade is recorded.

## The Self-Esteem Defense

Lemrick Nelson is the young black who is likely to have killed Yankel Rosenbaum in 1991 during anti-Jewish riots in Crown Heights, New York. He was acquitted on state murder charges, despite overwhelming evidence against him. The federal government, only after much prodding by Jews, agreed to try him again on civil rights charges. Mr. Nelson’s lawyers are preparing a tear-jerker defense, pointing out that he was an



“unplanned child” who was “ignored by his mother during his infancy.” They go on to explain his crime: “[Mr. Nelson] never felt secure, but also never learned the sense of boundaries normally taught by caring, responsible parents. Not surprisingly, Lemrick suffered from low self-esteem and has acted out his frustrations in ways which, albeit certainly inappropriate, enabled him to finally gain attention from adults.”

## The Shrunk Brain Defense

A Mr. Banda, ex-president of Malawi, has been charged with the 1983 murder of four political opponents. His defenders claim that he is unfit to stand trial because he has a shrunk brain and is so deaf he will not understand court proceedings.

## Crime and Drugs are More Fun

A July 18th *New York Times* article about public schools in Japan notes that unlike schools in the United States, “they offer discipline, orderly classes, safe corridors, rigorous train-



ing in basics like reading and mathematics, and practical lessons in physics . . . .” It goes on to note that they “provide a crime-free and drug-free environment,” and that discipline is strict. Straining to find something to criticize—after all, multiculturalism must have *some* advantages—the *Times* pounced on something to play up in the story’s headline: “Japan’s Schools: Safe, Clean, Not Much Fun.”

## Feds Do Something Useful

In the August “O Tempora” section we reported on an INS campaign to arrest and deport illegal aliens in the southeastern United States. The one-month project is now over, and 2,078 illegals from 26 different countries have been deported from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida. Before the INS sweep was even finished, more than 300 suddenly vacant jobs had been handed back to Americans. Next INS stops: Texas and California?

## It’s a Black Thing . . .

The O.J. Simpson murder trial grinds along, producing a steady stream of absurdities. One of the latest was an exchange between Christopher Darden of the prosecution and John Cochran of the defense, both black. Mr. Darden asked a witness whether a voice he had overheard sounded like that of a black man. Mr. Cochran objected to the suggestion that it is possible to tell a person’s race from the way he speaks.

“I resent that statement,” he said. “You can’t tell by somebody’s voice whether they *[sic]* sound black. That’s a racist statement.”

## National Front Victories

Candidates from Jean-Marie Le Pen’s anti-immigrant party, the National Front, took control of three French cities in recent municipal elections. The most significant victory was in Toulon, which is France’s 13th largest city, with a population of 170,000 people. There would have been more victories for the front if other political parties had not joined forces in some cities to defeat the “racists.” The former socialist prime

## You Can Help Samuel Francis

Sam Francis is just about the only syndicated columnist in America who writes honestly about race, immigration, and the challenges facing our country—and he has been punished for it. His column has been infuriating liberals for years, but one that was



taken—mistakenly—to be a defense of slavery was too much for his employer, the *Washington Times*. Dr. Francis has been fired as staff columnist at the paper and was given a significant cut in pay. His column continues to be syndicated, but the *Washington Times* will run it only when it chooses to.

Please write a letter to the paper objecting to this treatment of one of the most important voices in America today. It is very unusual for a newspaper executive to get as many as 20 or 30 letters on any subject, so *your letter will have an effect*. A show of support is the least we can offer a man who has written several times for *American Renaissance*. Please write to Wesley Pruden, Editor in Chief, *Washington Times*, 3600 New York Ave. N.E., Washington, DC 20002.

minister, Laurent Fabius called on French singers and other artists to refuse to perform in Toulon.

Jean-Marie Le Chevallier, the new mayor, says that his city will grant systematic preferences to French citizens. North Africans and blacks, of whom there are now about 20,000, will not be made to leave, but he hopes that if no more new subsidized housing is not built for them and if French citizens get priority for current benefits, immigrants will go elsewhere. One of the mayor’s first acts was to clear out the open-air market

where Africans sell trinkets. The city will set up permanent stalls for French artisans.

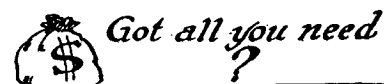
Meanwhile, the national government has tried not to let the National Front steal clean away with one of the best issues in the country. It is calling attention to its tough, new deportation policies. In July, it ejected several plane-loads of illegals and promised many similar operations. Newspapers and “human rights” groups yelled, but polls indicate that a large majority of the French are happy to see illegals deported, especially those from the third world.

## London Faces the Facts

The London police commissioner has reported young blacks commit 80 percent of the city’s muggings. He noted that in just five years street robbery had increased from 13,000 a year to 23,000 a year, and is now much more common in fancy residential areas. The commissioner, Paul Condon, is known to be a liberal, and couched his report in terms of “young black people, who have been excluded from school and/or are unemployed,” but this did not stop the usual crowd from telling him he should have kept his mouth shut.

## Bankers Bamboozled

It is one of the truisms of modern times that the fact that blacks are rejected for home mortgages more often than whites is proof that bankers are racists. Of course, if bankers were holding blacks to unfairly high credit standards it would mean that the blacks who do manage to get loans should have lower default rates than whites. The Federal Reserve Bank has finally investigated 220,000 mortgages to see how black default rates compare to white. They found that blacks, whether they live in cities or in suburbs, default on their loans at twice the rate whites do. This suggests that there has been so much pressure



on bankers to make loans to blacks that they are taking risks with depositors’ money and making unsafe loans. •